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BLM PLANNING TO BURN WOODPILES IN TOOELE COUNTY THREE PROJECT AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR WINTER SEASON

Fire officials at the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office are planning to initiate the pile burning season this Friday, November 30, 2007 in Skull Valley, approximately 3 miles northeast of the town of Iosepa. Tomorrow, if the weather is just right for smoke dispersal the SLFO fuels crew will burn the slash created by the thinning project close to Iosepa. Pile burning will continue in Tooele County throughout the winter season as weather conditions allow.

The pile burning will complete hazardous fuels reduction projects aimed to help defend the residents of Skull Valley and Rush Valley in the event of a wildfire. Over the summer, highly flammable juniper trees were thinned to increase the canopy spacing in three project areas:

- The **Iosepa Wildland Urban Interface project** boundary encompasses 3,941 acres. The primary unit to be treated totals 302 acres. The Iosepa project is located on the east side of Skull Valley, at the base of the Stansbury Mountains and about 3 miles NE of the community of Iosepa and about ¾ mile south of the Delle Ranch.
- The **Big Hollow Wildland Urban Interface project** boundary comprises 2,994 acres. The primary area to be treated totals 300 acres and is broken into 2 units, divided in the middle by a juniper mastication treatment. Unit 1 is 49 acres and is to the west of the mastication treatment. Unit 2 is 251 acres and is located to the east of the mastication treatment. The Big Hollow project is located in Tooele County and is situated to the west of the community of Rush Valley and to the south of the community of Big Hollow. This project is also just north of the BLM administered Clover Creek Campground.
- The **Hill Springs Hazardous Fuels Reduction project** boundary comprises 2,031 acres and is made up of multiple units. Units 1-4 are 124 acres each. Unit 5 totals 114 acres and unit 6 totals 352 acres. The Hill Springs project is located in Tooele County, south of the Pony Express Road on the east side of Lookout Pass. These projects are being implemented to reduce juniper density and provide biomass for local communities. There are multiple stewardship contractors working within the area at any given time. In units 1-5, one contractor will complete one unit per year while several contractors are completing smaller portions within unit six each year. The residual slash, after biomass removal, will be piled and burned on an annual basis until project completion (scheduled for 2011 but could extend for several years). The number of piles to burn each year will vary depending upon the actual acreage treated (up to 200 acres/year) and the amount of biomass utilized each year. The current estimate is that there will be about 16 piles per treated acre.

For more information on hazardous fuels projects planned throughout Utah check out www.utahfireinfo.gov

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